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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
/060 W
----------004617 292156Z /65
R 290808Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0427
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
INFO AMEMBASSSVBANJUL

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDIP, PINR, SG, MX, FR, LY, SY
SUBJECT: NEW LIBYAN, SYRIAN, FRENCH AND MEXICAN AMBASSADORS TO SENEGAL

1. SUMMARY: LIBYA'S, MEXICO'S AND SYRIA'S FIRST AMBASSADORS TO SENEGAL HAVE PRESENTED THEIR CREDENTIALS, AS HAS NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR. FRENCH ENVOY COMMENDED PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S "PARTICIPATION IN THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SECURITY AND THE STABILITY OF AFRICA," WHILE SENGHOR CONGRATULATED FRENCH ON THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT AFRICA SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE AFRICANS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ADDITION TO AMBASSADOR COHEN, THE FOLLOWING NEW AMBASSADORS HAVE PRESENTED THEIR LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO PRESIDENT SENGHOR IN RECENT WEEKS:

JULY 9: LIBYA: OMAR ELHADI
SYRIA: DR. FAYEZ NAHLAOUI
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FRANCE: FERNAND WIBAUX

JULY 22: MEXICO: ANTONIO CESAR VILLALBA ACEVEDO

3. LIBYAN, MEXICAN AND SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES ARE THEIR COUNTRY'S FIRST AMBASSADORS POSTED TO SENEGAL, REFLECTING CONTINUING

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EXPANSION OF DAKAR DIPLOMATICHIORPS WHICH NOW
ENCOMPASSES ABOUT SIXTY RESIDENT MISSIONS. FOR MEXICO, THIS MARKS
CULMINATION OF EXPANDED CONTACT WITH SENEGAL BEGUN WITH FORMER
PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S 1975 DAKAR VISITS.
MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TOLD SENGHOR: "WE DT NOT BELONG TO
BLOCS, NEITHER DO WE POSSESS MUCH RICHES OR MANY ARMS, AND
WE HAVE NEVER HAD COLONIES. BUT WE ARE PROUD OF OUR
NATION." SENGHOR'S RESPONSE NOTED STRONG CULTURAL ELEMENT
IN BILATERAL COOPERATION AND REPEATED HIS FAMILIAR CALL FOR
"NEW CULTURAL ORDER" AS BASIS "NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
ORDER."

4. ARRIVAL OF LIBYAN AMBASSADOR CONTINUES CAUTIOUS EXPANSION
OF BILATERAL TIES BETWEEN LIBYA AND SENEGAL, WHICH SENEGALESE
ARE NOT PURSUING WITHOUT MISGIVINGS. APPREHENSION OVER
LIBYAN INTENTIONS IN SENEGAL AND AFRICA AT LARGE HAS BEEN
VOICED REPEATEDLY TO EMBASSY OFFICERS BY SENIOR SENEGALESE
OFFICIALS (76 DAKAR 2360, 7537), MOST RECENTLY BY BOTH
PRESIDENT SENGHOR (DAKAR 4639) AND PRIME MINISTER DIOUF
(DAKAR 4993).

5. WITH ARRIVAL OF ITS NEW AMBASSADOR, FRANCE HAS AGREED
TO RELINQUISH ITS PRIVILEGED POSITION AS PERMANENT DOYEN OF
DAKAR DIPLOMATIC CORPS, BUT REMARKS DURING CREDENTIALS
PRESENTATION LEFT NO DOUBT OF CLOSE CONVERGENCE OF
SENEGALESE AND FRENCH PERCEPTIONS OF CURRENT AFRICAN
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DEVELOPMENTS. AMBASSADOR WIBAUX PAID TRIBUTE TO SENGHOR'S
FIRM REACTION TO THREATS TO AFRICAN CONTINENT: "THAT
PARTICIPATION IN THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SECURITY AND THE
STABILITY OF AFRICA SERVES NOT ONLY AFRICANS BUT ALL
HUMANITY. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT SHARES YOUR CONCERNS AND
UNDERSTANDS YOUR ANALYSIS." SENGHOR REPLIED THAT WIBAUX
HAD ARRIVED IN SENEGAL "AT A MOMENT WHEN AFRICA IS CONFRONTED
WITH DIFFICULTIES ALL THE GREATER--BORDER DISPUTES, TRIBAL
OPPOSITION, ... WHICH ARE, MOST OFTEN, EXTERNALLY INSTIGATED
BY THE CONFRONTATION OF IDEOLOGIES...." SENGHOR CONGRATULATED
GISCARD "FOR THE EFFORT HE HAS MADE TO UNDERSTAND THE
AFRICAN SITUATION, AND TO ADVOCATE THE BEST SOLUTION WHICH
IS STILL TO LEAVE AFRICA TO THE AFRICANS."

6. EMBASSY APPRECIATES BACKGROUND ON AMBASSADOR WIBAUX
CONTAINED IN PARIS 12228 AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER
INFORMATION ON THE NEW AMBASSADORS WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE
TO ADDRESSEES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 29-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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